



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

DEC 14 1998

1998

Reply To
Attn Of: OW-134

Steve Landino
National Marine Fisheries Service
510 Desmond Drive S.E. Suite 103
Lacey, Washington 98503

Dear Steve:

The State of Washington adopted revisions to their water quality standards (known as Phase I of the triennial review) on November 18, 1997, and submitted them to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on December 5, 1997. EPA approved the revisions on February 6, 1998, noting that consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act would be required, and that it was possible that the outcome of the ESA consultation might necessitate our "reconsideration of the approval action."

EPA has been working through the backlog of consultations on state water quality standards, with consultations on Oregon and Idaho water quality standards well underway. We would now like to initiate consultation on the Washington Phase I revisions, which are identified on the attached State background paper. We would also like to alert you to the need to have staff from your office engage in the current triennial review of Washington water quality standards (Phase II). The Phase II triennial review is focussed on developing antidegradation implementation procedures and a possible revision of the structure of the Washington water quality standards from a class-based system to a use-based system, with a special emphasis on temperature criteria to protect various aquatic life uses.

In order to commence the Phase I consultation we would appreciate receiving a list of threatened and endangered species under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service that may be found in the waters of the State of Washington.

Thank you for your timely attention to this request. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-0176.

Sincerely,

Marcia G. Lagerloef
Water Quality Standards Coordinator

Enclosure